

Serial No. 10/692,163

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REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Office Action mailed August 8, 2006. After the foregoing amendments, claims 4-8 and 12-14 (8 total claims, 2 independent) remain pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 12-15 and 25 stand rejected, claims 16-24 are objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, and claims 4-11 are allowed. Applicant amends claim 12 and cancels claims 1-3, 9-11 and 15-25. No new matter is added by these amendments, which are supported in the originally filed patent application. Applicant requests reconsideration of pending claims 4-8 and 12-14.

Information Disclosure Statement

As a preliminary matter, the Office Action notes that the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 20, 2004 recites U.S. Patent Nos. 4,364,083 and 5,255,541 which do not appear related to the subject matter of the present Application. Applicant notes U.S. Patent No. 5,255,541 relates to a Collar Laundering Machine and is relevant to said Information Disclosure Statement. However, Applicant notes that U.S. Patent No. 4,364,083 in fact does not relate to the subject matter in the captioned application, must have been inadvertently included, and thus may be disregarded.

Drawings Objection

The drawings are objected to as using reference character "402" to designate the pressure port and the nozzle. Applicant has amended the specification, namely paragraph [0026], as set forth herein, to clarify that a port may be considered equivalent to a nozzle (e.g., paragraph [0010]. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of this objection and submits no amendments to the drawings are necessary.

Additionally, the Office Action notes the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims and states that the first handle having a pressure cartridge and pressure port (relevant to claims 9-10, 11 and 24) filter must be shown in the drawings or canceled from the claims. Applicant has canceled claims 9-10, 11, and 24, obviating the objection, and thus requests its withdrawal.

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Objections to the Specification

The subject Office Action asserts various objections to the specification, with reference to claims 9-10, 16 and 18. Applicant has canceled claims 9-10, 16 and 18, obviating the objections and thus Applicant requests withdrawal of the same.

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Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 18 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has canceled claims 18 and 25 obviating any need to address this rejection, and thus, Applicant requests its withdrawal.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over La Bocchetta. Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Henry, Jr. Claims 1-3 and 15-25 have been canceled, obviating any rejections to these claims. Accordingly, Applicant requests any rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of claims 12-14, claim 12 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 17, which has been indicated as allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In lieu of re-writing claim 17, Applicant has amended claim 12 as noted and submits claim 12 is thus allowable. Likewise, as claims 13 and 14 variously depend therefrom, claims 13 and 14 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant request any rejection of claims 12-14 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-11 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting the same.

Double Patenting

Claims 19-24 stand objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claims 4-8. Applicant has canceled claims 19-24 obviating any need to address this objection, and thus, Applicant requests its withdrawal.

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CONCLUSION

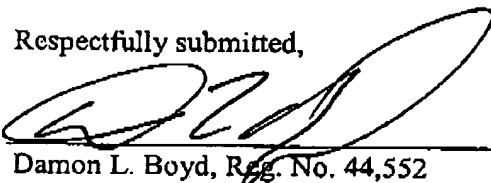
In view of the foregoing, all of the currently pending claims 4-8 and 12-14 (8 total claims, 2 independent) are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814. This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee.

Date 8 November 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


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